



## **United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) Command Vision 2004**

U.S special operators have been the cornerstone of our military operations since the beginning of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). All of SOCOM is now in high gear, a tempo we expect to maintain for a long time. The GWOT has sharpened the focus of our entire Department of Defense on immediate objectives, but at the same time we need to look well into the future. In order to chart the proper course, we must be able to visualize the end state we intend to achieve, quite simply to see a picture of how successful Special Operations Forces (SOF) will operate in the future.

### **A Picture of Success**

Tomorrow's teams of special operators, be they Special Forces, SEALs, Special Tactics, Psychological Operators, Civil Affairs, Rangers, Aircrew or Boatcrew, or new units with new capabilities, must find themselves in exactly the right place at the right time, facing the right adversary. In the past, we were prepared to go "any place, any time." That is no longer the goal. Through insight, planning, and preparation, SOF operators must be placed on the global battlefield in exactly the right place, with the appropriate equipment and technologies, and the optimum training. They will affect very precise National objectives. They will be mature, politically astute, and extremely capable in both lethal and non-lethal realms. They will have instant access to information and intelligence support, and to agile fire support or mobility. They will be part of a joint team that can efficiently leverage the full spectrum of combat support from air, space, land, or sea. They will face and solve problems that no one has faced before and their successes will deter action against us by our adversaries or will be the triggers for the greater victories of our military and our nation.

USSOCOM and its components will create the conditions and environment to ensure that each team of SOF operators is postured to best meet America's national objectives and protect American freedoms. They will continue to be the few at the Tip of the Spear.

## Vision Statement

*“To be the premier team of special warriors, thoroughly prepared, properly equipped, and highly motivated: at the right place, at the right time, facing the right adversary, leading the Global War on Terrorism, accomplishing the strategic objectives of the United States.”*

## Mission

The picture of success is defined. The purpose and focus of the entire organization must be equally clear, and is effectively spelled out in the USSOCOM mission statement. USSOCOM has evolved since Sept 11, 2001. Our two part mission is clear. One is to “plan, direct, and execute the Global War on Terrorism” as the lead combatant command. The other is “train and equip” Special Operations Forces. This remains fundamental and our service-like funding responsibilities tied with our functional unified command responsibilities make us unique. In this combined role, we will develop necessary insight through the most effective use of information to dictate the time and place that we will find, fix and finish terrorists. USSOCOM is small and unique. The advantage in our size is that we can combine our service-like force provider role with our supported war fighter role in unique ways that allow us to act aggressively with speed, creativity, and boldness.

The command's mission clearly spells out our priorities. We will focus on the disruption, defeat, and destruction of terrorists and terrorism around the globe. We will ensure that we can sustain that fight indefinitely by making readiness a priority for the long term. While maintaining the offensive in the GWOT, we will simultaneously seek to transform the command into an organization that continues to leverage every possible technological and doctrinal advantage.

## Values

The values of USSOCOM reflect those inherent in every Special Operator... they come from the men and women who make up the command. Only then do they guide us collectively, allowing commanders to plan and engage in operations with these values as driving factors. USSOCOM values continue to be:

**Integrity** A force that can be relied upon to operate to the highest moral standards, project the Nation's values and conduct its most sensitive missions.

**Courage** Uncompromising moral and physical courage under all conditions.

**Competence** Maintaining the highest levels of tactical and technical competence continuous improvement is our trademark.

**Creativity** Using innovative, imaginative solutions to accomplish complex, demanding challenges.

## **Performance Criteria**

In order to see the final vision, we must understand what standards we are measuring against. What are the expected results? How do we know if we are succeeding? In our war fighting role, we seek a global environment in which terrorist groups are scattered, unorganized, unsupported, and unable to recruit. They have nowhere to hide, and become less and less effective until they eventually implode. The establishment of this environment will take time, and will require national patience and fortitude to achieve.

In our force provider role, we will create an environment in which SOF forces are the best prepared soldiers, sailors, and airmen possible. We have mechanisms that accurately predict what will be required on the battlefield most of the time, and on the occasion that we miss the mark, will react almost immediately to remedy that situation. Our acquisition programs will be forward leaning, creative, and flexible. We will lead the services in leveraging the latest technological advantages, but will actively strive to share this technology with them.

## **Conclusions**

As a command team, we must all work to make this vision a reality. As we do, we will see our goals and objectives achieved. Our efforts will remain focused on our mission. Our success will come from the finest trained and prepared warriors in the world who are in the right place at the right time. It will be clear to all that special operations forces are key to America's ultimate defeat of terrorism. In an environment of asymmetric threats, we are this Nation's asymmetric counter-force. With energy, focus, skill and determination, we will take the fight to the enemy and win. The future of this Nation demands it.